



# NEWS

**For Immediate Release  
April 21, 2003**

## **Children of U.S. Department of Energy Grand Junction Office Employees Celebrate “Sixty Years of Science and Safety”**

(Grand Junction, CO) — For 60 years, the local U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) office has used its scientific and engineering capabilities to provide solutions to our nation’s challenges. Children of the Grand Junction Office employees will learn about the site’s significant history as well as some aspects that affect their parents’ current work at the site’s annual “Take Our Children to Work Day” this Thursday, April 24.

This is the seventh year DOE Grand Junction Office has expanded the national “Take Our Daughters to Work Day” to include sons and grandchildren of employees. Boys are also included in the national program for the first time this year, in the renamed “Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day.”

More than 40 children and grandchildren of all ages are expected to visit the Grand Junction Office at this year’s event. The children will participate in guided tours in the morning including hands-on lessons and safety tips in the “Safety-Saur-Us” dino-mobile van provided by St. Mary’s Hospital Emergency Medical Service Outreach. Other tour stops will include amazing science and math experiments conducted by local scientist John McConnell, weather demonstrations by a U.S. Weather Bureau meteorologist, a presentation on the removal of non-aqueous phase liquids from groundwater, and a demonstration on sun safety.

Employees of the Grand Junction Office are proud of the site’s local history and of their scientific contributions to the country. The U.S. War Department acquired the site in 1943 as part

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of a secret uranium procurement program, Project X, for the Manhattan Engineering District. During World War II, uranium was recovered from vanadium mill tailings at the site's refinery. After the war, the site became the center of the "uranium booms" of the 1950s and the 1970s, when the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission initiated a uranium procurement program at the Grand Junction site. Since the 1980s, DOE Grand Junction Office has managed several large environmental remediation and characterization projects, and continues to conduct remediation and long-term monitoring projects at sites across the country.

"Much of the work we do here has far-reaching environmental consequences and requires specialized scientific research and strict safety standards," said Audrey Berry, DOE-GJO Public Affairs Specialist. "We want the children to get to know some of the work their parents perform, and to understand the public and personal safety considerations involved in our project activities."

To commemorate the day, the children will stamp their handprints and sign their name on squares of fabric that will later be sewn together to make a quilt. The children will also make crafts, fly kites, and enjoy a hot lunch at the site with their parents and grandparents.

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**Note:** Media are invited to visit the site during this half-day event; site tours run from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please contact Wendee Ryan at (970) 248-6765 to schedule a visit.

#### **News Contacts**

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